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**Testimony before the Education Committee**

**Submitted by Representative Catherine Abercrombie**

**March 7, 2016**

**SB 383: An Act Concerning the Technical High School System**

Good morning, Representative Fleischmann, Senator Slossberg, Representative Lavielle and Senator Boucher and distinguished members of the Education Committee. I am Representative Catherine Abercrombie from the 83<sup>rd</sup> District in Meriden and Berlin. I am here today to support Senate Bill 383, An Act Concerning the Technical High School System.

There are seventeen schools in Connecticut's Technical High School System. These schools offer students excellent academics, as well as outstanding vocational training in thirteen technologies including automotive, HVAC, health technologies, biotechnology, plumbing and heating, computers, graphics, culinary and marketing. The education and training in this system prepare students to move into various college careers, or, to move directly into employment in their chosen fields.

I urge you to support this bill which gives technical high schools the autonomy they deserve. The technical high school system is an incredible resource for students, employers, and the state of Connecticut, and we should do all we can to encourage its success. I hope you will consider this legislation and give it a favorable vote.